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The Indonesia Human Rights Campaign

111 Northwood Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey CR7 8HW, UK
Telephone 081 771 2904 Fax 081 653 0322 Email gn:tapol

Hon[illegible]ry President:
Lord [illegible]vebury
Hon[illegible]ry Treasurer:
Tom[illegible]pper
Org[illegible]sing Secretary:
Car[illegible] Budiardjo

27 October 1992

Ambassador Rui Quartin-Santos,
Portuguese Foreign Ministry,
Lisbon
Fax: 010 351 1 397-4460

Dear Dr Quartin-Santos,

I take the liberty of writing to you again on the question of East Timor.

I am sure you have been following reports about the present security clampdowns in East Timor in anticipation of action which the East Timorese may take tomorrow, 28 October, in commemoration of the murder of Sebastiao Gomes, and on 12 November, the anniversary of the Santa Cruz massacre.

We have been contacted by East Timorese in Indonesia imploring us to do everything possible to monitor the situation in Dili on 12 November. Although I know non-Indonesian friends who are hoping to visit Dili at that time, it may prove impossible for them to go there. Brigadier-General Theo Syafei has made it clear he will keep a tight grip on the situation throughout this whole period.

We have considered the situation carefully and suggest that the European Community should send a warning to Jakarta not to allow the military in East Timor to clamp down on the East Timorese, at this extremely sensitive time. Would it be possible for your government to suggest such a demarche to the President of the Community? Could I also suggest that the European Community formally ask the authorities in Jakarta to allow it to send an observer team to Dili to be there before, during and after 12 November? This is the only way we can think of at present to impress upon the authorities in Jakarta that the world is watching the situation inside East Timor and is not prepared to sit back and allow Brig.Gen. Syafei to terrorise the East Timorese with impunity.

Yours sincerely,

Carmel Budiardjo